

57 to 54BC

Caesar had 8 legions. The losses under SABINUS were about the full complement of one legion, which would leave 7. Of the 2 new legions enrolled in northern Italy in the Winter of 54BC one took the number of the 14th, destroyed under SABINUS; the other was numbered the 15th. The Legion borrowed from Pompey was the 12th, though Caesar renumbered

This reinforcement brought the number of legions up to 10.

Pompey held proconsular command as nominal governor of Spain. In his Consulship of 55 BC he had been invested with special powers which enabled him to levy troops even in provinces under control of other governors.

57-54 BC

Age 27-29

Mark Antony first gained notice  
as a Roman cavalry officer in  
Palestine and Egypt

Caesar brought his army to Cisalpine Gaul to spend the winter. Then, he learned that Belgians had attacked the Roman garrison at BIBRAX. The barbarians, with multitude of soldiers had surrounded the fortification and cast stones to knock down the Romans from the top wall. Belgians holding their shields over their heads advanced on the garrison. Caesar came to BIBRAX & attacked

the Belgians. They were forced to retreat but later that day stormed Caesar's camp across the SAMBRE R. The Roman soldiers fought the Belgians in the river; the blood of both armies ran in the river. In the evening, the Belgians decided to retreat & fight Caesar in their own territory, but he surprised them with a midnight march, killing & capturing many. The battle ended with the rout of the tribe & the survivors surrendered to Caesar. Caesar settled his legions in winter quarters and sent word of his victory to Rome. The Senate declared 15 days of Thanksgiving.

57-56 BC

Caesar sent SERVIVS GALBA, with the 12<sup>th</sup> Legion to open a pass through the Alps, which the NANTUATES, VERAGRARIANS, and SEDUNANS were holding. Caesar wanted this pass to be opened for Roman merchants. GALBA, despite one defeat fought a successful campaign and established a garrison. Caesar believed Gaul to be under Roman control, but a coastal tribe, the VENETIANS protested a grain tax and gathered the other seacoast tribes together in

a new rebellion. Caesar depended, in this battle, upon his well-equipped and skillful navy. The Roman fleet was victorious and the defeat of the Venetians was accomplished. Caesar decided to punish the tribe and killed or sold as slaves the members of the tribe: Senati. Caesar then campaigned against the mutinous tribes of MORINI & MENAPPI. He chased them from their homes into the Hells and ravaged the countryside.

59BC

Salva (Servius Salva) and the  
12th Legion in OCTODURUS

Seduni and Veragri surrounded.

After more than 6 hours' continuous  
fighting the Romans were at the end  
of their strength and had scarcely any  
weapons left to throw. The situation was  
as bad as it could be; and BACVUS - the chief  
centurion came running with Gaius Volusenus



Quadratus and told Salva their only hope of escape was to try their last resource - a sortie through the enemy lines. Salva summoned the centurions & they explained the new plan to the troops.

Suddenly they charged out from all the gates. Over 10,000 enemy were killed; rest (20,000+) fled in terror.

Next day, he burnt all Bldgs in village and marched through the Vanticate into the territory of the Allobroges where he spent the winter.

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They surrounded the fortification and cast stones to knock down the Romans from the top wall.

Caesar came to Atrax & attacked the Belgians. They retreated, but later attacked Caesar's camp across the SAMBRE R. The Romans fought the Belgians in the middle of the river. In the evening the Belgians retreated. Caesar surprised them on a midnight march, killing & capturing many. The battle ended with the route of the tribes and their survivors surrendered. Caesar settled legions in winter quarters, sent word of victory to Rome. The Senate declared 15 days of thanksgiving.

57-56BC

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The Venetians protested against a grain tax & gathered other seacoast tribes

for a new rebellion. Depending on his navy  
the Roman fleet was victorious and the  
Venetians were defeated. He killed or sold  
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57 BC.

The Nervii were winning the fight. Caesar seized a shield. All the centurions of the 4th Cohort 12 legion were killed. The chief centurion Publius Sestius Baculus was wounded till he could not stand: He made his way to front line, addressed each centurion by name ordering them to push forward and open

their ranks so they could wield swords  
more easily. His coming gave them fresh heart.  
Noticing 7th legion (which was close by). Caesar  
told military tribunes to join the 2 legions to-  
gether. no longer afraid of being surrounded from be-  
hind which encouraged them to put up a valder  
resistance. The two legions guarding the baggage  
came up. & Labienus, who had captured the enemy's  
Camp sent 10th legion to rescue. The enemy were  
standing on their own corpses but the bulk of the  
Verii was almost annihilated. All men scarcely  
500 men capable of bearing arms out of 60,000.

57BC Collapse of the Belgic Coalition.

Alarming reports of uprising in Gaul induced Caesar to raise two new legions in Italy and send them in the spring to Gaul under the command of QUINTUS PEDIUS, one of his generals.

As soon as forage began to be plentiful Caesar joined the Army in person, and



instructed the Senones to find out what  
was going on among the Belgae.  
As their reports all agreed that their  
troops were being levied and  
concentrated, he decided that he  
must take the offensive at once.  
In a fortnight he was on the Belgic  
frontier.

57 BC

Caesar pacified BELGICA roughly  
(Belgium)

67BC - 57BC - 56BC      QUINTUS CAECILIUS METELLUS  
NEPOS      d. c 55BC

He was the brother of C. C. C. He served with Pompey (67-64BC). He supported Pompey against the senatorial party and was (63BC) his candidate for the tribunate. He was elected with CATO but had to flee Rome temporarily to escape senatorial hatred. In his censorship (57BC) he allowed his sworn enemy CICERO, to return from exile.

chiefly to curry favor with Julius Caesar.  
His proconsulship (56 B.C.) was in Hither  
Spain.

57BC

CAIUS MEMMIUS left Rome to serve as PROPRAETOR in BITHYNIA. He took with him an assistant - QUINTUS (or CAIUS) VALERIUS CATULLUS.

CATULLUS did for Latin poetry what Cicero did for Latin prose: he took it as crude potency and lifted it to an art that only Virgil would surpass.